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KUWAIT

U.S. MIDEAST ROLE SEEN AS GREATER 'AGGRESSION' THAN AFGHAN INVASION

LD301653 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Jan 80 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial: "Stab in the Heart"]

[Text] Just as the ominous visit to occupied Jerusalem and then the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty have passed, the process of normalizing of relations will also pass and the American-Zionism train will continue its advance on the area, paying attention to no one and heeding no objection.

The fact is that, when it was decided that the train should begin its advance, as early as the kilometer 101 event [when Egyptian and Israeli officials met to discuss disengagement of forces], one must say in fairness that the rest of the Arabs--the oil-producing Arabs and the Arabs who have soldiers--had the chance to stand up and fight if they were capable of fighting. But they only gathered in a conference or a demonstration at every station through which the advancing train passed. They then dispersed and the train continued its advance to another station.

The train is now at the normalization station, and we have come out crying and slapping our faces in lamentation, but the train will continue its advance. Perhaps the first next station will be the one where we will see with our own eyes an Egyptian-Israeli joint military campaign to discipline an Arab country or tear up another, so that the star-spangled American flag will cast its shadow from the Gulf to the ocean and perhaps impose Hebrew on us as an official language. What else does this American concentration mean, other than providing an umbrella for imposing Camp David domination on the area? What does the Russians' movement close to our borders mean other than enabling the train to continue its advance to other new and terrifying stations?

Then, is not this American concentration similar in many aspects to the U.S. strategic alert declared during the October war to emphasize to the Soviets and the Arabs that the United States will not let the Arabs regain their usurped rights from Israel and that it will fight for this purpose.

Also, what does Carter's announcement of spreading U.S. protection over the Arab area and of concentrating his fleets mean except that he regards the area as being under U.S. occupation?

In other words, what is the difference between this American announcement, which is contrary to all international charters and UN laws, and the Soviet armies' entry into Afghanistan? The spreading of protection in the manner announced by Carter is exactly the same, and it will lead to the very situation against which we have gone to the Islambad conference to complain.

On this occasion, we must not forget that all the Arab states, except As-Sadat's Egypt, have rejected this protection and objected to the concentration of the American fleets in the Arab area's waters. Despite this, Carter did not feel embarrassed when he announced--like the Nazi fuehrer who regarded the Danzig corridor as belonging to the reich--that he regards the Arab area as belonging to the United States and when, in disgusting, thoughtless arrogance, he regarded the Arab land with all the Arabs in it as "vital interests" of the United States.

If we recall that the consecration of the area as an American "vital interest" began with the imposition of the American settlement on Egypt, in preparation for imposing it on the area, then we can understand what the American announcement means and what its aims are, indeed, why it was intended to plunge the Arabs into a crusade away from the dangerous and fatal spot.

The Americans, who are aware of their criminal role in the usurpation of Palestine and Islam's holy places there, want to usurp the Islamic will and to distort its aspirations by dragging it, through the fabrication of the Afghan treaty, into the American fold and exploit it to serve American policies and goals. This is because the Americans know, in fact, that the Islamic countries are not countries for communist ideologies or Soviet influence. Yet they want to brand Islam by making it look like a U.S. satellite.

The American game of instigating the Soviets to intervene militarily in Afghanistan was completely exposed when it was ascertained how they tried to exploit their fabricated crisis with Iran in an ugly, opportunist and vulgar manner.

Had the Americans, who are now so earnestly concerned for the Arabs and Islam, wanted dignity for the Arabs and Muslims, they would have checked Israel within the minimum reasonable limits. They would have thus definitely and honorably secured their "vital interests" in the Arab area, which, as we have already indicated, cannot possibly be communist or desire communist involvement. But Washington, by its constant hatred, wants to vanquish and debase the Arabs, to humiliate them and to make them appear like eunuchs lacking in willpower, personality and dignity and as servile lackeys.

The sure and bitter fact is that the American and Zionist policies are inseparable; they are the two sides of a coin, two daggers in one hand.

In any case, the declaration of effective American occupation of the Arab area and the simultaneous declaration of the Egyptian-Israeli normalization are sufficient to serve as a final proof of the real and most serious aggression and of the dimensions of that aggression which, by any standards, cannot be compared with any other aggression. If the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan is equally serious, it is an aggression committed against the remote parts, whereas the American-Zionist aggression is an aggression committed against the heart itself. Do we understand what a stab in the heart means?

OMAN

ZAWAWI COMMENTS ON ISLAMABAD TALKS, THREAT TO PDRY

LD301610 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD/EA

[Excerpts] His Excellency Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation returned to Muscat at noon today after attending the conference of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries in Islamabad, which ended yesterday. His Excellency Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi said the conference was very successful, representing a strong step against the Soviet threat and a protest treaty [muahidat ihtijaj] against the USSR. For the first time, countries strongly connected with the Soviets participated in declaring their disapproval and condemnation. This is evidence that there is (?widespread anger) at the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The minister said that the conference proved that hostility toward the USSR is on the increase in a manner not previously anticipated.

The minister of state for foreign affairs confirmed that South Yemen refused to attend the Islamabad conference because the Aden regime knew that the conference would strongly condemn the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. He said what happened in Afghanistan could also happen in South Yemen. because Moscow intends to use the same method as that used in Afghanistan to change the ruling regime in Aden, that is direct military intervention.

On coordination among the Gulf states in the Islamabad conference, the minister said the Gulf ministers met in the Pakistani capital during the session to discuss and exchange views among themselves.

QATAR

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

NC301135 Doha QNA in English 1055 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Doha Jan 30 (QNA)--Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf said that the conference of Islamic foreign ministers which wound up its meetings yesterday in Islamabad confirmed the Islamic countries keenness and continued interest in tackling their causes as well as adopting serious and quick steps to solve these issues.

He pointed out that the response of the participants to this great event is an apparent gesture on the close spiritual coherence among various Islamic countries apart from their regional or national affiliations.

The minister in a statement following his return yesterday from Islamabad expressed confidence and hope over the continuity of such good spirit and constructive reaction.

UAE

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

NC301130 Doha QNA in English 1050 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 30 (QNA)--United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashed 'Abdallah termed the resolutions taken by the Islamic conference in Islamabad as an expression of Islamic solidarity and backing to the Afghan people who lost their most sacred Islamic sanctuaries. He confirmed the significance of following up and enforcing these resolutions pointing out that the danger threatening the Islamic nations comes from a superpower.

In a statement upon his arrival from Islamabad yesterday where he headed his countries delegation to the conference the minister said that the current stage necessitates more meetings until achieving victory by the Afghan people. He also affirmed that the aggression against Afghanistan is a link in a series of aggressions against the Islamic nation and added "We can not separate between the Zionist aggression against Jerusalem and the Soviet aggression on Afghanistan since the Islamic land is inseparable" and asserted his country's backing for Islamic causes everywhere.

YAR

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ECONOMIC TALKS IN ADEN

JN281940 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 80 JN

[Text] The members of the delegation of the northern part of the homeland to the economic committee returned home from Aden today following their participation in the meetings of the joint economic committee. 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, minister of development and chairman of the Central Planning Board, told the SABA' NEWS AGENCY that they discussed the economic committee's agenda. He added that the committee had outlined certain criteria to assess what has been achieved by former committees, what has been approved and matters which will be discussed.

He said that work is going on to assess the committee's past achievements. This time, we came out with positive results relating to foreign trade. He concluded his statement by saying that, following the recent San'a' statement on coordinating economic and industrial plans, the joint economic committee understands that it is entrusted with an important responsibility by both presidents. The coordination of plans will also be discussed during the next session in San'a'.

PDRY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER LEAVES FOLLOWING VISIT

JN302039 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 80 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of communications in the southern part of the homeland, left San'a' this evening. During his visit, he met with brother leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the prime minister and conveyed two messages to them from brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. He also met with the minister of communications and transport, as well as with the ministry's officials, and held talks with them on coordination between the two parts of the homeland in communications and on the exchange of expertise between them.

LONDON PAPER PREDICTS CHANGES IN YAR CABINET

LD310953 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jan 80 p 1 LD

[Correspondent report: "Important Political Developments in San'a': Transfer of University Scholarships to Moscow"]

[Text] San'a'--ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that important political developments are about to take place in North Yemen. These include the appointment of Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani as vice president of the republic. A new Yemeni cabinet is also expected to be formed. It is believed that the most likely candidate for the premiership will come from the leftist "National Democratic Front."

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned that Yemeni President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is now holding consultations preparatory to announce these changes.

On the other hand, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Yemeni president has issued orders that could be regarded as a dramatic change in his policy. The orders provide for Yemeni university students on scholarships in Saudi Arabia to be transferred to courses in the Soviet Union at a time when the Saudi authorities have not taken any action warranting such a transfer.

KHALIL, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR AUTONOMY TALKS IN ISRAEL

NC301806 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1751 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 January--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil left Cairo for Herzliyya this evening at the head of Egypt's delegation to the Palestinian autonomy talks. These discussions will begin tomorrow morning and will be held at ministerial level.

Interior Minister Nabawi Isma'il and Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sulayman Mutawalli saw the prime minister off.

MENA on Herzliyya Talks

NC311157 Cairo MENA in English 1100 GMT 31 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Tel Aviv, Jan 31 (MENA)--Each of the Egyptian and the Israeli sides to the self-rule negotiations held a separate meeting this morning at Accadia Hotel in preparation for the convening of the eighth plenary session of the negotiations due to open here this afternoon.

The Egyptian side under Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil will discuss the working system during the plenary.

The Israeli side was led by Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

The study by the Egyptian delegation to the working system of the plenary's work will be made in the light of the ideas and proposals that were exchanged by the two sides at the preparatory session held by chairmen of the three delegations last night, namely the ideas and proposals that represent each side's viewpoint, MENA learnt.

Meanwhile, Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Khalil, chairman of the American side Sol Linowitz, and chairman of the Israeli side Yosef Burg are to meet at noon today prior to the convening of the plenary.

The subcommittees emanating from the plenary committee for autonomous negotiations will submit their reports to the plenary committee in its inaugural session today. The reports include both the Egyptian and the Israeli drafts and views exchanged in the subcommittees on the two drafts.

Egypt has submitted to the subcommittees during their meetings which ended yesterday a draft on autonomy, emanating from its basic principles in this respect, and which were expressed since the start of negotiations. The Egyptian draft underlines the necessity that the autonomy enjoys executive, legislative and judicial authorities, namely, an elected legislative council grouping from 80 to 100 members, an executive authority emanating from it and an independent judicial authority.

The Egyptian draft also includes withdrawal of Israeli forces to fixed points to be later negotiated.

The Egyptian draft stresses that Arab Jerusalem is an integral part of the West Bank, and what applies to the West Bank also applies to Arab Jerusalem.

The draft asserts the illegitimacy of settlements which should be frozen and new ones should not be set up nor old ones expanded.

The draft further stipulates that settlements should come under the authority of self-rule during the first stage until their final status is settled, as the Egyptian stance stresses the necessity of dismantling them for good.

As regards foreign security and defence and foreign affairs, the draft pinpoints the necessity that such matters should be shouldered by a joint committee of the Camp David parties, in addition to an elected Palestinian authority during a transitory period with a deadline of five years till the Palestinian people's self-determination.

The Egyptian draft also asserts that the region to enjoy full autonomy comprises all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 including Jerusalem, whose borders were defined in the 1949 truce accord.

Meanwhile, James Leonard, alternate chairman of the American delegation to the meetings of the subcommittees, paid tribute in an address yesterday to the Egyptian effort exerted in the proposed draft, and said that what was happening now represented a definite new stage.

AS-SADAT VISITS SUEZ CANAL AREA 30 JANUARY

NC301533 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today visited the southern sector of the Suez Canal in Abu Sultan and Deversoir areas.

The president was accompanied on this tour by Eng 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, the engineer president and overseer of the food security projects.

KUWAITI DAILY: 93 EGYPTIAN OFFICERS DISCHARGED

JN301132 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 30 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 30 January--The newspaper AL-WATAN reports here today that 93 high-ranking officers of the As-Sadat regime have been discharged in a purge described as the biggest in the Egyptian forces since 1967.

Quoting well-informed sources in Cairo, the paper says that those discharged include 30 major generals and 32 brigadier generals. The paper adds that the purge was carried out at the instructions of traitor As-Sadat prior to the normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy in implementation of the As-Sadat-Zionist treasonous treaty.

The paper did not mention the date of the officers discharge or any other details.

AL-AKHBAR CALLS ON ISLAMIC STATES TO PUNISH USSR

LD301623 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Jan 80 p 12 LD

[Mustafa Amin column: "Idea"]

[Text] It is not enough for the Islamic Conference meeting in Islamabad to condemn the Russian military invasion of Afghanistan. Words do not liberate peoples from occupying armies, resolutions do not break shackles and eloquent speeches will not compel the Soviet forces to withdraw from Afghanistan.

The 35 Islamic states must make the world feel that they are capable of defending the independence of an independent state and of harming any major power which might attack another state. Expelling Afghanistan's sham government from the Islamic Conference membership is not enough, nor is breaking political and economic relations with it. By so doing we would be punishing the shadow and not the substance, the facade and not what actually lies behind it. It is like someone hitting the saddle because he is incapable of hitting the donkey.

What is required is that the Islamic Conference do something to hurt the Soviet Union just as it has hurt every Muslim and every believer in freedom and independence. What is required is that the conference teach every state, be it the Soviet Union or the United States, a lesson; namely, that small states cannot be devoured, and if they are devoured the big states cannot digest them. If the countries meeting in Islamabad cannot do this, then their meeting is futile. If they cannot strike at the hand of the invader as he devours Afghanistan, then Pakistan, Iran, the Gulf countries and the Arab and Islamic countries will, in turn, one by one, become the target of invasion, especially since Islam is the high dam that prevents the communist tide from flooding the whole world.

The question now is: Will the Islamic countries stop selling oil to the Soviet Union as long as it occupies Afghanistan? Can the Islamic countries stop dealings with the state that has violated the UN Charter and trampled upon the independence of a UN member state?

One single strong stand by the Islamic states would rally around them all the Third World countries; it would deter any state from doing in the future what the Soviet Union has done to Afghanistan.

Let us recall that Hitler devoured Austria, and when the world remained silent he devoured Czechoslovakia and then Poland and tried to devour the whole world. If we have not learned from the past, let us learn from Afghanistan.

We can be sure that the Soviet Union is now preparing in Moscow a ruler for every Islamic state, and as a matter of course the Soviet Union will impose such a ruler on the particular state in question when requested to occupy that state.

ROSE AL-YUSUF ON CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S STATEMENTS

LD281009 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 21 Jan 80 pp 3, 5 LD

['Abd al-'Aziz Khamis article: "Shame, Fahd!"]

[Excerpts] I had intended to devote these pages to publishing one of the most accurate press reports ROSE AL-YUSUF has been able to obtain from original sources inside the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, but His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has willed that they be devoted to replying to his long-winded statement to the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR, which was published on 13 January in the newspaper AR-RIYAD. Therefore, I apologize to the reader for postponing publication of the press report that gives the most accurate details of the terrible events that occurred in the holy land when a gang of individuals felt so aggrieved that they stormed the Holy Mosque and drenched its floors in blood.

In any case, the sedition, thank God, ended with the execution of several Muslim Arabs, who were decapitated a few days ago without a public trial and without the public knowing the truth about what they had committed to deserve death. It was evident from the manner in which the executions were carried out that the intention first and foremost was to intimidate and terrorize, as all those convicted were executed simultaneously in the various towns of the holy land.

Before discussing with the gallant Saudi first deputy prime minister what he said, I would like to remind him of what he told a Dutch journalist he saw recently. He said he would not rest or be calm until he had done away with As-Sadat's regime. We will comment on this in just a few words: Time will tell. What has happened and is still happening at this moment on Saudi territory is quite enough for us. If anything, it goes to show the extent of confusion and decadence in which people like the gallant amir live inside a kingdom which, as he admitted to the newspaper AS-SAFIR, exists within an iron curtain.

It is strange indeed that Amir Fahd said in his statement that he had known for 7 years about the perpetrators of the incident and that they were a group of naive and simple people whom he did not expect to resort to arms or murder and that they paid a bribe of 40,000 rials to one of the mosque guards in order to be able to take ammunition into the mosque. This does not make sense, because it is illogical to believe that a naive person would be scheming for 7 years. Also, it is illogical that a naive person would be able to bribe one of the mosque guards, because they are the custodians of the holy house whom the royal family pays generously.

In any case, the Al-Haram incident is not the topic of our discussion today. The subject of our discussion is what Amir Fahd is reported to have said--that when President as-Sadat took the initiative to visit Jerusalem, he did so in a manner which gave the public the impression that we approve of the visit and of the ignominous events that followed it, as he put it.

Furthermore, Amir Fahd asserted that President as-Sadat told him that "separate peace with Israel is out of the question and that Egypt would continue to advance toward Geneva. That is all there is to the matter."

The Saudi crown prince added: "As-Sadat defined Arab demands in the Israeli Knesset. We wish he had adhered to these demands, for nobody would have objected."

He then said:"No Arab state has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another state." He added: "It is true that there are now certain differences between some Arab countries, but we should not sidestep them or stand idle in the face of them. We must continue to knock on all doors and exert good efforts. It is necessary to make sure that relations between Arab leaders are not broken. I do not think we are unable to find the appropriate and suitable solutions.

Probably the most important thing Amir Fahd is reported to have said is that the Arabs must coordinate their efforts rather than letting their interests clash in the field of investment, because if capital is mixed it links the people with stronger ties, regardless of whether such capital belongs to the state or to the people. But is must be pointed out that mixing capital among the Arab states must have some assurance as backup, because capital is timid. Even if relations become tense between me and another state, this tension should not be used in order to harm the capital I possess.

We tell Fahd, in response to his saying that leader As-Sadat launched his creative initiative in Jerusalem without the knowledge of or without asking the permission of Riyadh's rulers, that As-Sadat had himself publicly declared that the initiative decision was a purely Egyptian decision and that Egypt does not accept anyone's tutelage. He said that although Saudi Arabia, during the era of the great monarch, the late King Faysal, extended a helping hand to Egypt, this does not give Saudi Arabia the right to manage Egyptian policy and determine the course of Egyptian political thought.

We would not be exaggerating if we said that under no circumstances whatever can the depth of Egyptian thought, with its genuine cultural origins, meet with the shallowness of latter-day thought that has suddenly emerged with the influx of petrodollars.

As for Fahd's saying that As-Sadat has assured him that the idea of separate peace with Israel is absolutely not countenanced in Egyptian policy and that Egypt will continue to advance toward Geneva for the sake of a comprehensive solution, these words are still valid and are being reiterated not only by As-Sadat but also by every Egyptian official.

We constantly declare that although we have signed a peace treaty with Israel, despite the normalization of relations between us and the enemy whose enmity has lasted for a long time, and despite the fact that we are proceeding on the path of searching for a solution to the Palestinian problem through the establishment of self-rule for the Arabs who are suffering under the Zionist military rule in the occupied West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem, we are ready to go to Geneva not in order to talk about formal procedures or to get involved in outbidding in order to please a major power at the expense of another major power, but to penetrate to the crux of the problem. And this is to establish the Palestinian people's rights on a firm and clear basis that cannot be tampered with or exploited by any faction, be it Palestinian, Arab or foreign.

We wish Fahd had not mentioned interference in the internal affairs of other Arab countries, for he himself has time and again fallen in this snare. The story of his involvement in Lebanon is well known. He financed and armed the Maronites against the progressive Islamic forces. He then incited the Syrians to enter Lebanon as invaders and conquerors and urged them in the direction of liquidating the Palestinians and treating them the same as the Maronites and the Israelis. The Tall az-Za'tar events are still recent. At that time he forced the Palestinians to stop their activities in southern Lebanon and ordered the Syrians not to go beyond the red line drawn up by Israel at the Al-Litani river.

It is ironic that Fahd, who used to sponsor and support the magicians and the extremists who seized the Holy Mosque catacombs as their headquarters, from which they propagated among Islamic youth from various countries their poisonous ideas which subject religion to their whims and in order to export sedition, terror and assassination to other countries, could not deny that this sort of disgraceful interference in the affairs of others is contemptible, and it is ironic that the arrow he has shot has come back to strike him. He has therefore been punished at the hands of the magicians and the extremists who led the sedition in the Holy Mosque for what he did. Egypt had asked for the extradition of some of them when they fled to Saudi Arabia, but Fahd declined to respond to this request.

The amir is a man who does not change his skin. This is evident in the fact that he speaks about capital and investment in the language of a realistic capitalist who is well known in international financial circles and the leading financiers clubs of Las Vegas. He says that capital should not be affected by strains in relations. He forgets that he himself was behind the attempts to strike at the arms industry in Egypt established by the Military Industrialization Authority with joint Egyptian and Arab capital.

In any case, the purpose of this article is not to hurt or slander anybody or even merely to recall things, but to say to his royal highness a single world--namely, "shame"--and that he may not confuse the dregs of his innermost personal feelings, which he harbored even before becoming crown prince of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, with a public policy affecting the future and fate of one of the world's most important regions.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON OUTCOME OF MUBARAK'S TOUR

LD281657 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Jan 80 pp 1, 8 LD

[Hamdi Fuiad report: "Husni Mubarak's Trip Achieves Important Political and Military Results"]

[Excerpts] Hamdi Fu'ad, who accompanied the vice president during his 19-day tour, writes: Speaking about his mission, Vice President Husni Mubarak said: "Talks during my tour were concentrated on the Middle East problem, particularly the Palestinian problem. The views and analyses of all the leaders I met with coincide on the need to solve the Palestinian problem now and to establish genuine and comprehensive self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza, and not an imaginary and sham rule that deprives the Palestinian people of their rights."

I learned that President Jimmy Carter has assured Husni Mubarak that the U.S. objective is to secure the establishment of full self-rule, including a solution to the problem of Jerusalem, and that the coming period, particularly the next month, will be critical with regard to reaching results within the date scheduled for concluding the negotiations. I also learned that the question of a tripartite summit was also discussed at the meeting between President Carter and Husni Mubarak and that the proposed summit between As-Sadat, Carter, and Begin was among the possibilities discussed so as to achieve the desired progress. The convening of the summit depends on the following: 1) achieving positive results now for solving existing differences or overcoming the most significant of these so that the summit meeting will not be a mere alternative to achieving nothing; 2) determining the points on which there are differences that must be discussed at summit level and paving the way to reaching understanding on them; 3) that the summit must be the last stage and must be preceded by thorough preparations and by an atmosphere which will insure success.

President Carter made it clear to Husni Mubarak, who in turn conveyed this to President As-Sadat, that the United States will adhere to resolving the problem on the basis of the Camp David accords and without trying to find alternatives because there is just one objective; namely, to grant the Palestinian people genuine self-rule. He also assured him that Jerusalem will be one of the basics to be included in the solution. Husni Mubarak explained to President Carter that the question of Jerusalem does not concern solely the Palestinian people, or just Egypt or the Arab countries, but rather it concerns some 800 Muslims as well as the Christian world. As the United States is seeking to regain the confidence and win the support of the Islamic world, it must devote all its attention to this question.

I learned that, while he lauded the Egyptian stand, the U.S. President expressed certain reservations regarding the Israeli stand. Although electoral considerations and the important problems facing the U.S. administration compel the U.S. President not to open new fronts, he will nevertheless convey his remarks to the Israeli Government regarding its stand and will emphasize that the interests of peace demand adherence to all the Camp David agreements.

On the military plane, the United States has informed Egypt at U.S. presidential level that it is ready to increase military appropriations to Egypt and that the sums of such appropriations can be discussed. Husni Mubarak's reply was that Egypt does not want figures or an increase in appropriations but demands the fulfillment of all its military requirements in the present circumstances. He said that this cannot be done through making appropriations but rather by actually financing what is required and providing the funds necessary for this. On this basis Egypt submitted a detailed statement showing all its military and defense needs compatible with the importance of the present stage and the recent developments in the military field. The United States has in fact approved some of these requests and is looking into others. An Egyptian military mission will fly to the United States in the next few days in order to continue discussing these needs which were previously discussed by the Egyptian military side in the Washington talks. I also learned that Husni Mubarak told the U.S. administration that Egypt has no objection to U.S. arms deliveries to Israel, but in return, we want the fulfillment of our needs to be dealt with as a basic matter.

I learned that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the developments to which Soviet military moves in the area might lead were discussed by President Carter and the Egyptian vice president as well as by the latter and some of President Carter's aides. In this regard Egypt explained the following principles:

1. The Arab countries will defend themselves and Egypt will help the countries to defend themselves, particularly the Gulf countries, if they ask for such help; if there is a need to give the United States facilities for the attainment of this objective, such facilities will be temporary and conditional upon defense the Gulf region and other Arab interests at the request of the countries concerned.

2. Egypt, like the rest of the Arab countries, does not wish a U.S. military presence on its territories. For its part, the United States did not request or show any desire to have a military presence.

3. Egypt, thanks to the boosting of its defense capabilities and the training of its men in the use of sophisticated weapons, will be capable of facing all eventualities and even of helping other countries in facing them.

I learned that this subject was one of the most important topics Husni Mubarak discussed with Sultan Qabus of Oman. The Egyptian vice president was acquainted with all the sultan's views and ideas, which he immediately conveyed to President as-Sadat. He also conveyed them to President Carter and his aides. I have learned that the Omani Government has no objection to giving facilities to the United States on the basis of the same principles as defined by Egypt. On the other hand, I learned that President Carter informed Husni Mubarak that he will ask Congress to approve an increase in Egypt's quote of wheat and corn. In addition, a number of arms- and helicopter-manufacturing firms have proposed entering into joint production activity with Egypt through the Military Industrialization Authority. Some of these requests have been approved while others are under consideration. All these projects are aimed at boosting Egypt's military capability.

FRENCH FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY DEPARTS 31 JAN

JN311033 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 31 January--Olivier Stirn, French secretary of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning following a 4-day visit to Iraq.

ATH-THAWRAH POSITS U.S.-IRANIAN COLLUSION

JN251319 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 25 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH has affirmed that there are new indications in the region that expose U.S.-Iran relations and denounce their joint collusion. The paper says Iran's obvious role in the region is not truly a new one, but actually complements its previous role, through the use of different methods and facets that are in line with the region's realities and U.S. logic.

In a commentary today, ATH-THAWRAH says Iranian-U.S. relations were not severed at all, whether on the level of bolstering economic ties, continuing the flow of Iranian oil to the United States or on that of military cooperation and the flow of U.S. arms and experts.

The paper states that Iranian policy was not divorced from the U.S. scheme with regard to the Arab Gulf and nation, adding that the conspiratorial Omani plan was not proposed without first taking Iranian desires into consideration or consulting the Tehran rulers.

The paper points out that the U.S. threats and military moves were also included in the scheme's general outline and details.

ATH-THAWRAH affirms that the fabricated uproar on the U.S. Embassy hostages in Tehran and the calculated tepidity and silence all prove this.

The paper asks: Otherwise, how can one explain Carter's recent praise of the Tehran rulers and his readiness to promote Iranian-U.S. relations? How can one explain the statements made by several U.S. officials about their readiness to make great sacrifices in Iran's favor, in order to solve the fabricated issues that have been raised?

The paper questions the meaning of the decision by the United States and its Western allies to postpone the sanctions and cancel the economic and naval boycott against Iran until the Iranian presidential elections end.

The paper states that the logical, natural and realistic explanation for all of this points in one one direction; namely, to the firm, old role played by Khomeyni and the so-called Revolution Council in the interest of U.S. imperialism and its colonialist policy.

In conclusion, the paper affirms that the next few days will carry new reports, moves and indications indicting the Tehran rulers and exposing their plots against the peoples of Iran, the region, the nonalined movement and Third World states.

MINISTER AL-MIR'IBI LEAVES FOR TALKS IN SYRIA

NC301535 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Excerpt] Minister Talal al-Mir'ibi left Beirut today for Damascus for talks with Syrian officials on the issue of the south and the renewal of the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in light of the recent ADF withdrawals.

ARMY COMMANDER CONFIRMS NO ISRAELI FORCES ENTERED SOUTH

NC291725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Following reports of the entry of Israeli enemy forces into Lebanese territory and their concentration in some of the areas of the so-called border strip, Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri on 28 January 1980 immediately summoned UNIFIL command officers and officers responsible for the UN observer posts along the Lebanese-Israeli border. He met with them in his office today in the presence of Staff Col 'Abbas Hamdan, the deputy chief of staff for operations, and a number of command officers, and inquired about the truth of the reports. As a result of the meeting it has emerged that there is no truth to the reports carried by news agencies about the situation in the south.

AGREEMENT REACHED ON HALTING JUBAYL AREA CLASHES

NC302030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Contacts and efforts have continued in order to contain the security situation which was again aggravated at noon today in the districts of Kasrawan and Jubayl.

A 2-hour meeting was held this evening at former President Camille Sham'un's residence at which agreement was reached on halting the clashes in the two areas.

Reports had stated earlier that four persons were killed in the town of Mar Mqin at noon today.

RENEWED SHELLING OF VILLAGES IN SOUTH REPORTED

NC302108 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Jan 80 NC

[Text] The south was shelled again this evening. The town of An-Nabatiyah and the Arnun area came under artillery shelling from the southern border at 2100.

The Israeli air force made numerous sorties over the south today.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS SOVIET EXPERTS IN AL-BIQA'

NC291320 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 29 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Beirut have disclosed that 75 Soviet experts have entered Al-Biqa', where intensive mechanized movement has been reported in the area.

SYRIA, USSR ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON GROMYKO'S VISIT

For the TASS international service in Russian account of the joint communique on the visit of USSR Foreign Minister Gromyko to the Syrian Arab Republic, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 30 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

SYRIAN, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS HOLD TALKS IN PARIS

JN301937 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Paris--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abd al-Halim Khaddam met in Paris today with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet.

At a working luncheon given by the French minister in honor of Khaddam, the two ministers discussed Middle East developments and other issues of joint interest.

Khaddam Leaves Paris

JN310655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0413 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Strasbourg last night. He was received upon arrival by a delegation representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council.

The SANA correspondent reports that prior to his departure from Paris, Mr Khaddam held lengthy discussions with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet.

Mr Khaddam said that he and the French foreign minister exchanged viewpoints on various international issues and the Middle East issue. The two sides' assessment of the problems was based on joint interests and total understanding. Mr Khaddam added that he sensed that France is seriously seeking a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East issue based on justice and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, which will lead to a lasting peace.

Mr Khaddam pointed out that on behalf of his government, the French foreign minister expressed his indignation over the criminal aggression against the Syrian embassy in Paris.

The SANA correspondent adds that Mr Khaddam will deliver a speech in Strasbourg this morning before the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council. This will be followed by a general debate.

FRANCE EXPRESSES REGRET OVER SYRIAN EMBASSY BOMBING

JN301251 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jan 80 JN

[Text] The French charge d'affaires in Damascus contacted the Foreign Ministry this morning and expressed the French Goverrment's deep regret over the evil aggression against the Syrian embassy in Paris in which one person was killed and nine others wounded, and which was intended to harm Syrian-French relations which the French Government has been careful to develop and strengthen in the interests of the two countries and peoples.

The French charge d'affaires stressed that the French security departments are concerned about this regrettable incident and that they will persist in uncovering the criminal perpetrators.

TISHRIN Comments

JN310842 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column and under the headline "The Hand of Crime Is Here and There," the newspaper TISHRIN writes: The criminal attack on the Syrian embassy in Paris is not a heroic deed in any form and under any standard. It is a criminal and vile deed against a group of innocent people who visit the consular section daily for ordinary and routine matters known to all consulates in all the embassies of the world.

Those who placed the explosives in the embassy did not commit an act of aggression only against innocent people and the Syrian embassy, but also against the sovereignty of France, which shoulders the responsibility of protecting the embassies and foreign establishments on its soil.

Terrorism, the planting of explosives, the assassination of innocent people and aggression against the sovereignty of other states are denounced and condemned by the international community and world public opinion.

Inasmuch as the matter concerns France, the repeated aggressions against Arab establishments and personalities in France place the French Government before an issue which is related to Arab-French relations, the activities of terrorist organs and organizations which are operating with much freedom against the Arabs in France, and the French Government's measures to combat terrorism on its soil and carry out its duty of protecting foreign establishments and personnel in its country.

The French press and foreign information media have linked the criminal aggression against the embassy with the arrival in Paris of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, to meet with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet and then to proceed to Strasbourg, the headquarters of the European Council, to deliver a speech on the situation in the Middle East.

This is not the first time that bombs, crime and terror are used in an attempt to prevent Syria's voice, opinion and stand from reaching world public opinion. However, past experiments in terrorism against Syria have never achieved their objectives and will never do so.

The criminal attack on the Syrian embassy in Paris just before Mr Khaddam's arrival in the French capital will not harm Syria and will not prevent Syria's opinion from reaching public opinion in Western Europe.

Although the French police have not yet discovered the criminal perpetrators and those who stand behind them, those who benefit from the crime and from the attempts to harm Syria expose the parties which stand behind the crime and the series of terrorist actions against Syria. Those who stand behind the aggression against the Syrian embassy in Paris are those who stand behind the gang of murder and terror inside Syria, behind the Israeli threats of aggression against Syria and behind the acts of pressure against Syria to force it to deviate from its stand, which is hostile to the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against the Arab nation and the issue of just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The enemies of Syria and the Arab nation are those who benefit from harming Syria and its policy. They are the perpetrators of crimes and conspiracies being committed against Syria and its progressive pan-Arab role in the Arab arena and the world. The hands which stretch out to assassinate innocent people and strugglers, officers and scholars in Syria are the same hands which have stretched out to commit murder and crime in the Syrian embassy of Paris. They are hands manipulated by the enemies of peace and liberty: U.S. imperialists, Israeli rulers and As-Sadat traitors.

This choice of vile means to fight against Syria, which is leading the Arab liberation struggle, does not demonstrate the increasing strength of the enemies of Syria and the Arab nation, but indicates that those who have lost the battle in the Middle East have lost their nerves and have begun to act in a nervous and unbalanced manner, using means that do not honor those who uphold them and do not lead to success.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR BERLIN, MOSCOW

JN301005 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, left for Berlin this morning at the head of a party delegation on a visit to the GDR at the invitation of the SED. Comrade al-Ahmar and his delegation will also visit the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

During the visits, the party delegation will hold party and political talks and will sign two agreements for cooperation for the next 2 years.

VOICE OF LEBANON: SOVIET EXPERT KILLED IN ALEPPO 24 JAN

NC310736 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 31 Jan 80 NC

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources have said that terrorists killed a Soviet expert in Aleppo on 24 January while he was riding in a passenger car with other Soviet experts.

ALGERIA

COMMENTARY SCORES U.S. ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO

LD301737 Algiers APS in English 1600 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

["U.S. Arms to Morocco: APS Commentary"--APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 30/1/80 (AFPS)--"The American Government asked last Thursday the Congress for the authorisation to sell new arms to Morocco."

"General Ernest Graves, Defense Department representative declared during debates that Saudi Arabia's Government was to finance the selling of these equipments to Morocco."

"Mr Harold Saunders, deputy secretary of state for the Middle East and southern Asia indicated that this supply will enable King Hassan II to negotiate in a situation of force."

The Algerian news agency (APS) which reports the information published on the front page by the national daily EL MOUDJAHID, writes, "Once more, the American Government is to deliver arms devoted to the fight of people struggling for his liberation, and refuses to take into account the real dimensions of the Western Sahara problem which is a problem of decolonization recognised as such by the whole of the international community."

APS recalls resolutions in favour of the Saharan people voted during the last summits of international instances and adds: "Washington announces the selling not only of helicopters and reconnaissance aircrafts but also of 20 F5 jet fighters. This means the begining of complications with all risks for peace in Western Sahara and the whole of the region."

"Beyond the selling of arms devoted to the massacre of innocent populations who don't ask something else than dignity and freedom to exercise their fundamental rights, it is in fact the political committment of a superpower in a conflict until now limited," APS writes.

"This measure could open the way to a dangerous internationalization of the conflict. This decision constitutes at the same time a challenge to Africa for which decolonization is a holy cause," the Algerian news agency concluded.

LIBYA

JANA REPORTS ON TENSION IN TUNISIAN TOWN OF QAFSAH

LD301943 Tripoli JANA in English 1908 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, Jan 30, JAMAHRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--According to AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, tension has escalated in Qafsah, in Tunisia, today. Shots of automatic guns could be heard while the town is still surrounded by Tunisian security forces and access to it is forbidden. While Tunisian military patrols continue to chase the forces that attacked barracks of the armed forces, police and national guards in Qafsah last Sunday, three ships of the French national navy and four submarines have been moving in the Mediterranean since last Monday.

At a press conference held by Othman Kechrid, the Tunisian minister of interior, said that the plan of the forces that had attacked Qafsah aim to take over power and to blockade town and form a new government.

The Tunisian minister pointed out that this attack was carried out under the pretext of saving the Tunisian people who are "suffering from oppression, and repression of freedom."

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ASTONISHED BY TUNISIAN MEASURES

LD302150 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] A spokesman for the Foreign Secretariat expressed astonishment at the announcement of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira regarding the recall of the Tunisian general commissioner in the Jamahiriyah. He said: We learned of this decision with strong astonishment and amazement, and we believe that there was no reason for such a measure. If it is confirmed, the Libyan Foreign Secretariat regrets very much this action which influences the relations of the two fraternal peoples.

LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN DENIES HE RESIGNED

NC291836 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 January--In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY today, Libya's Ambassador to Pakistan Muhammad Bashir Megheirbi denied press reports that he has resigned and decided to live in Abu Dhabi. He described these reports as completely incorrect. He added that he is still his country's ambassador in Islamabad and that he is now paying a private visit to the Emirates, where he previously served as his country's ambassador for 5 years.

Embassy Statement

LD301900 Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, January 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The embassy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Kuwait today denied allegations published yesterday in the Kuwaiti press that the Jamahiriyah's ambassador to Pakistan had resigned.

The press attache at the embassy issued a statement denying these allegations and describing them as untrue. He said Mr Bashir Megheirbi is acting as ambassador to Pakistan but was recalled in protest against the execution of the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto by the Pakistani authorities. The statement which was broadcast and published in the Kuwaiti press today, confirmed that Mr Megheirbi is now in the United Emirates states on a private visit.

DELEGATION EXPLAINS WALKOUT FROM SUDANESE PARTY CONGRESS

LD311055 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Jan 80 p 16 LD

[Marwan Hazin dispatch: "Libyan Delegation Withdraws From Third National Congress of Sudanese Socialist Union; Libyan-Sudanese Crisis Threatens Severance of Relations Because Egyptian and American Military Attaches Visited Sudanese-Libyan Border; Sudanese Foreign Ministry Denies Egyptian Attache's Visit"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum--The Libyan delegation to the Third National Congress of the Sudanese Socialist Union led by Muhammad Abu al-Qasim az-Zuway, assistant secretary general of the People's General Congress, has announced its withdrawal from the Sudanese congress.

At an extraordinary press conference at the Palace of Friendship, where the Sudanese Congress is meeting, Az-Zuway said: The withdrawal decision was made as a result of the visit made by the American military attache, accompanied by the Egyptian military attache, to the Sudanese area of (Al-Fashir). He added that at a time when a high-level Libyan Jamahiriyah delegation is participating in congress meetings with the Sudanese people, the Sudanese information media came out with a strange report about a visit by the two military attaches to an area on the Libyan-Sudanese border.

The Libyan official emphasized the seriousness of this visit, which he considered "tantamount to a direct provocation directed against the Jamahiriyah and falling within the context of a Sudanese-Egyptian alliance under an American umbrella." He said: This has taken place at a time when we are aware of the extent of relations between the Egyptian and Israeli regimes--and of the concentration of massive armies on our Libyan border.

Muhammad az-Zuway, who is No 3 in Libya, emphasized that the visit testifies to the existence of military coordination between Sudan and Egypt with America's blessing. Naturally, he said, such coordination is directed against neighboring states such as Libya.

He added: We regard this action as a hostile and provocative act at a time when we are extending a friendly hand to Sudan. The report came as a surprise to us. We regret having to decide to withdraw from the current congress.

He asserted that the visit took place on 25 January--that is, 3 days ago--at the same time as the Libyan delegation was arriving in Sudan. He said that the strange thing is that the SUNA NEWS AGENCY and Sudanese radio and television carried the report without hesitation. The Libyan official said: We have asked the Sudanese ambassador in the Libyan capital (Tripoli) for an explanation of this behavior but so far we have received no reply. He added: If anything, this proves the existence of military coordination between the three countries (Sudan, Egypt and America).

He explained that the withdrawal decision has no connection with the recent report of Sudanese military facilities to the United States. He said: In any case, that is an internal matter which concerns Sudan and we have no right to interfere in it. He differentiated between the two reports--the report on the two attaches' visit and the report on Sudanese facilities for the United States--by saying: Libya considers the report on the visit a hostile act and premeditated coordination among the three aforementioned parties against the Jamahiriyah. The Libyan official said: We hope that Sudan will issue a statement explaining the question of the visit so that relations will not be affected. He then recalled the reports on Egyptian concentrations on the border with Libya and also the secret annexes to the Camp David agreement which, he said, include a hostile act against the Arab nation and progressive forces like Libya. He said that Egypt has confirmed that it has assumed the role of policeman in the area.

Later on, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry issued a statement explaining that the Egyptian military attache did not visit the aforementioned area and that the American military attache visited it alone.

So far, there has been no Libyan reaction to the Sudanese explanation.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER RECALLS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA

LD302000 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Hedi Nouira, prime minister and party secretary general tonight at party house in the capital presided over a meeting of party cadres. He delivered a speech in which he deduced the political objectives of the aggression against the town of Qafsah at dawn last Sunday.

After the prime minister recalled the statement made by the interior minister this morning on these events, the seriousness of the situation and the meticulous planned for this operation, he said Tunisia was subjected to such aggression because its policy is aimed at maintaining its independence and because its internal policy is liberal and progressive, based on calmness, moderation, noninterference in the affairs of others, and adherence to international legitimacy and international laws regulating the rights of small and big states.

For all this, our country was subjected to aggression by mercenaries trained in Libyan camps, which we frequently protested against and warned about. These mercenaries were also trained in guerrilla war in battlefields such as Lebanon and Uganda and practiced assassinations. We observed an example of them. Then they were trained in piracy, and Tunisia was among the victims of these operations.

In this context the prime minister recalled the Orly Airport incident, the operation connected with the German aircraft coming from Frankfurt to Djirba, and finally the operation concerning the Italian aircraft on its way from Rome to Tunis. The prime minister pointed out that the leaders of those operations always seek asylum in Libya, where they find shelter and protection.

The prime minister, speaking on recent events in Qafsah, said that what can be deduced from a preliminary investigation is that this aggressive gang, which came though an Algerian region and arrived in the early hours of Sunday, 27 January--that is, 2 days before the date of the biggest Islamic holiday, the Prophet's birthday--exposed the level and value of Islamic morals held by the instigators of this operation. When the aggressors arrived in Qafsah they thought they would find supporters, but their disappointment was like a disaster to them.

They tried with hollow slogans to win over the people. But some of them reacted in disgust and many tried to flee, but they were rewarded with death. By this action they wanted to give the impression that the Algerian authorities were on their side and that there was interaction between them and these authorities. Their aim is to cast about on the conduct of the Algerian authorities to weaken the Tunisians. [as heard]

Hedi Nouira pointed out that the action had been carefully planned for some months by secretly smuggling arms into the country through mercenaries like them. But the citizens of Qafsah and its province [words indistinct]. The aggressors adopted in their actions a slogan stated by the big planner: "Killing is a holy sacrifice; may the revolution triumph." A number of the Qafsah inhabitants were victims of this slogan. But what is more important is that the planner of the aggression more than once stated his intention.

Here the prime minister cited what Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said on 1 September 1978: "Faced with the rejection with which unity was met by a narrow majority, we today have to resort to new methods represented in a popular revolution. Action in the future will be based on the creation of popular committees throughout the Arab world. These committees are to work, openly or clandestinely, for the seizure of power and the realization of unity." This statement was made after a series of operations and attempts which all ended in failure.

Hedi Nouira then observed that what Tunisians should do, irrespective of their views, is to remember that defense of the homeland is a duty, and so is defense of lawful institutions, rejection of material and moral violence and guaranteeing security and stability, without which there can be no progress. We must also remember that all this represents the most certain duties of responsible citizens.

While Tunisians today regret to find among them some who repudiate their homeland, they will most surely defend the independence of their country, which they achieved after a long struggle and for which they rendered every sacrifice. That independence was not a chance gift in history. They must also remember that by defending the homeland they are defending gains they have secured through cohesion and self-denial.

The prime minister announced that the government, headed by President Habib Bourguiba, has decided first to recall our ambassador to Libya on the premise that the state of relations existing between the two countries does not require such a level of relations. The Libyan ambassador in Tunis has been notified of this decision. Secondly, the government has ordered the termination of work on the cultural centers of Tunisia and the Libyan Jamahiriyah in each of the two countries.

Hedi Nouira recalled that last Sunday's aggression came from a country with whose people we have been friends with and have had relations with in bad as well as good times. We have adopted their sons and their offspring. But we distinguish between the good Libyan people and the regime they must endure. Tunisia is resolved to defend its sovereignty whatever the cost. It has already proven how brave its soldiers and internal security forces are, how loyal its people, how steadfast the Qafsah inhabitants are and how ready they were to render sacrifices.

He said it would have been possible to destroy the aggressor group in a short period, but the geographical situation impeded the use of all the means in our possession, fearing that mothers and children could fall victim.

If the perpetrators of this operation, who possessed ample funds and arms, believe that Tunisia would fall as an easy morsel for them and their ilk, they are wrong and their deeds are doomed. We must not be exposed to another such operation because the aggressors regard their failure (?as loss of face) and they will have to repeat their action many times. They must realize that Tunisia is experienced in struggle and in resisting such operations.

Hedi Nouira called on Tunisian youth to be always vigilant, to abandon superficial matters, to rally around the lawful authority, to keep their eyes open and to watch out for anything that appears unusual because an operation like this can initially take citizens by surprise, but if they find themselves in the middle of hostile surroundings, they will not succeed. Nouira added that some people regard Tunisia as a peaceful nation having no military strike force because our ethics call for efforts to be directed toward raising the living standard of the Tunisian people and lifting them from backwardness. We have preferred creating employment to amassing various weapons. We considered this top priority. But the needs and circumstances require us to review our priorities. However, these priorities without men mean nothing. [Words indistinct] good thinking and planning. Tunisia has friends and its status earns its respect.

AL-'AMAL NOTES LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN QAFSAH ATTACK

LD302152 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] AL-'AMAL published this evening a special edition covering in words and pictures the events at Qafsah. Among the pictured documents is a photograph of a passport issued by the departments of the Libyan ministry of the interior; a photograph of the bill for weapons purchased by Libya from a certain state confiscated from the attackers; other photographs of the consequence of the human and material attack, and a number of photographs of various weapons captured from the mercenaries.

INTERIOR MINISTER PROVIDES DETAILS OF 'MERCENARY' ATTACK

LD301756 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Othman Kechrid, minister of the interior, at noon today held a press conference in which he spotlighted the dastardly crimes by a group of mercenaries who infiltrated Tunisian territory from a neighboring country which specializes in such actions.

The minister said that the citizens of Qafsah were awakened at dawn Sunday by the sound of shooting and bomb explosions caused by the attackers, who split to three groups, which headed by Ahmad Tlili barracks, the police station and the national guard post. He added that the mercenaries forced all those opposed to them to join their ranks and killed all those who refused their order.

Regarding the assault of Ahmad Tlili barracks, Othman Kechrid explained that only 350 new recruits were in the barracks that night. They were recovering from inoculations, while the rest of the soldiers were carrying out military maneuvers in the south.

The interior minister pointed out that the investigation which began on Monday indicated that the number of assailants totalled [as heard]. It has become known that they had criminal records and that some of them were being sought by the police. They left Tunisian territory, and some of them have resided abroad since 1970. Some escaped to a neighboring country, which specializes in such operations, and they were trained in training centers. Some of them were sent (?on missions in) Lebanon and Uganda.

The interior minister stated that the number of dead and injured totals 15 dead and 16 wounded from among civilians, two dead and one injured from among the police, one wounded from the national guard, and 20 dead from the army, including 15 new recruits. As for the assailants, the number of those killed was four, three were wounded and 42 have been captured and now are being interrogated.

NOUIRA DISCUSSES LIBYAN RELATIONS; FRANCE SENDS WARSHIPS

LD310952 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Excerpts] Calm has still not been completely restored in Qafsah in Tunisia 5 days after the attack on the town which resulted in 41 deaths. Bursts of automatic gunfire were still being heard yesterday. The Tunisians are now accusing the Libyans of having (?sent) the commando and now diplomatic relations between the two countries have been broken off. Here is the explanation of Hedi Nouira, the Tunisian prime minister, whom our special correspondent (Jerome Bonalvi) has met: [begin recording]

[Nouira] Following the first investigations and the preliminary inquiry, we decided on the instructions of the president of the republic to recall our ambassador in Tripoli and to ask the ambassador of the Jamahiriyah in Tunis to do the same.

[(Bonalvi)] Is this a real breaking off of diplomatic relations between the two countries?

[Nouira] [Words indistinct] For the moment it is a demonstration on Tunisia's part of its [words indistinct] suspicion regarding the policy of the government of [word indistinct]. [end recording]

Three French warships have been sent to the Gulf of Gabes. France does not really want to play policeman but all the same the presence of the admiral in command of the Mediterranean fleet onboard one of the three ships shows that the matter is nevertheless being taken very seriously. The paper LE MATIN goes as far as to say on its front page and under subheadings that transall transport airplanes have arrived in Qafsah and that they will reportedly be followed by combat helicopters from the 11th paratroop division, but I must tell you straight away that this news has not been confirmed.

KHALIL, BURG ADDRESS RECEPTION AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT

TA301752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Jan 80 TA

[Statements by Interior Minister Yosef Burg in Hebrew and English and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil in English on arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport--live]

[Text] [Dr Burg] Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and shalom to you all. It is a great pleasure to meet with the honored delegation of the Egyptian republic, with its Prime Minister Dr Khalil, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, the important delegation, in the presence of our Prime Minister Mr Menahem Begin who has asked me to express our welcome and our wishes for everyone for success in that elevated, sacred task we wish to consolidate: peace in our region at a time and in an area over which an earthquake is almost passing.

[Burg--in English] Now I have the distinct pleasure to be together with two prime ministers and, on behalf of Prime Minister Menahem Begin and as the head of the negotiation team of the Israeli Government, it is my distinct pleasure and privilege to say Shalom [here Dr Burg is interrupted by correspondent Dan Eshel, who translates the above into Hebrew]...Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and to Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs of Egypt, and all the worthy members of the Egyptian delegation. They had the working groups here, they did a good job, but a great deal still has to be done since they are meeting in the very first days of normalization of relations between our countries. We are meeting at a time when a political and military earthquake is shaking many countries in our region and we, together, will proceed, and I hope also will succeed in fortifying; and strengthening peace for our countries, our nations. Welcome, Mr Prime Minister.

[Dr Mustafa Khalil] Excellencies, Mr Begin, Dr Burg, distinguished guests: I would like to thank Mr Begin for his very kind gesture in coming to the airport and I would also like to thank the distinguished members of the Israeli delegation who have met us. I would like to stress our intention to proceed in our talks to achieve our duty in the comprehensive peace settlement and to try our best. As Dr Burg said, the working groups are doing their best to find a common ground for our work.

I think, in any negotiations, one should always be patient and exchange points of view and one should be determined to reach a successful result. I think that we are determined, both of us, the Israeli side and the Egyptian side, to reach that successful result. As Dr Burg mentioned, the region around us is really very disturbed and we think that if we establish a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, this will contribute much to the peace in the whole area and toward the peace in the meantime.

I think we must do our best and I think Dr Burg with his imagination and, as we have done before and succeeded before in reaching points of agreement, I am sure that this time also, and I hope that we are going to reach points of agreement, if not complete agreement on all points.

Thank you, Dr Burg. Thank you, Mr Begin and thank you very much for your reception. Thank you very much.

BURG INTERVIEWED ON DIRECTION, PROGRESS OF TALKS

TA310711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Dr Burg told our correspondent Razi Barka'i: I believe Mr Linowitz will try to present an intermediate model in order to bridge the gaps. [begin recording]

[Question] Dr Burg, did you hear anything of the ideas Mr Linowitz brought with him from the United States?

[Answer] I can say that we had a meeting this evening which was like a tour d'horizon, where we saw the horizon from an overall point of view, as well as the political aspects pertaining to this region. Later we began to ask, and tomorrow, God willing, we shall continue probing, how we are progressing, since the two models--the Egyptian and the Israeli one--are very distant from each other, and how we can bridge this. We shall deal further with this tomorrow.

[Question] What do the Americans say about this gap? What ideas did they bring with them?

[Answer] They said they think, perhaps, there is a possibility to overcome this. We also spoke about expediting the tempo of the working group discussions. There may be proposals for additional working groups. However, this hasn't been formulated yet. I proposed a steering committee, so that we may measure every week--if this is physically possible--the progress of the negotiations.

[Question] Dr Burg, judging from what you have heard from Mr Linowitz, are the American ideas nearer to the Egyptian model than to our plans?

[Answer] I cannot say so because we did not measure this and I assume that the Americans will try to seek some middle ground.

[Question] Are the rumors true that there is an intention--at this stage at least--to try to solve the problems that the least disputed and perhaps defer to the end the question of Jerusalem and the question of the powers of the self-administration council?

[Answer] Regarding Jerusalem, I can say that my personal position, my position as the chairman of the Israeli ministerial team to the autonomy talks, and my position as a Cabinet member is very clear, and the question hasn't been raised at this stage. In any case, I have no doubt that both the Americans as well as the Egyptians know our stand, even if they do not identify with it.

[Question] What about the powers of the self-administration council?

[Answer] That is the very question that has to be defined. We hold that there are certainly many fields where full powers can be granted, and certainly there are issues that have to be under Israeli authority, as, for example, all the matters pertaining to security.

[Question] Dr Burg, will you, will the government be ready to consider to relinquish some of the powers we demanded in our model, such as, for example, the issue of water?

[Answer] I think no one wants to sentence himself to die of thirst and, hence, your question is not directed to the proper person.

[Question] We are not at the ninth round of the talks and the Israeli public feels that there is no progress. What can you tell the public on this issue?

[Answer] I can tell the public that this is a matter that pertains to dozens of years of war and to decades of differences of opinion. Deadlock or not, this is not something that can be measured in millimeters or with a stop watch. A marathon includes other rules than just a 100-meter run. I think the public feels what the media has let them feel. I think that in view of the gravity and the scope of the problem, the past months were not in vain, and we are continuing. [end recording]

HA'ARETZ: EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER KHALIL NOT OPTIMISTIC

TA311005 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Oded Zaray]

[Excerpt] At this stage I cannot say that I am optimistic, but I hope to be so at the end of the talks tomorrow. However, there is no choice other than to come to a solution agreed upon by both sides, the Egyptians and the Israelis, and on this matter we have heard definite thoughts from Ambassador Sol Linowitz which may lead to progress in this round of the talks. These remarks were made last night by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil in an exclusive interview with HA'ARETZ in the Accadia Hotel in Herzliyya, where the official opening of the autonomy talks on the plenary level in the framework of the ninth round will be held this afternoon.

Last night Dr Khalil attached importance to the informal talks held between him, Dr Burg and Ambassador Linowitz. The three heads of delegations met for 1 and 1/2 hours and exchanged general thoughts among themselves and, for the first time, discussed together the lines of thought presented by Ambassador Linowitz to Dr Khalil in Cairo 2 days ago and to Dr Burg in Jerusalem at dawn yesterday. The three heads of delegations were unanimous in their view that they should aim at advancing the talks and instructing the working groups to give serious consideration to substantive issues. These issues have been put forward in both of the proposed autonomy models and are to be defined in the plenary talks today. Ambassador Linowitz reported in general terms on his talks in Gaza and Jerusalem yesterday with notables from the territories.

In reply to a question, Dr Khalil said that the issue of the implementation of the autonomy in Gaza first was not up for debate now because we had to, first of all, reach an early solution on the matter of the model and nature of the autonomy. If the Palestinians from the East Bank reject the model agreed upon, then it will be possible to implement it in Gaza first.

LINOWITZ CONDUCTS TALKS WITH SHIM'ON PERES

TA301158 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 30 Jan 80 TA

[Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Correspondent Dan Eshel] After he met with the prime minister, Linowitz met with the chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, in his hotel. After the meeting, I asked Mr Peres whether the idea of implementing the autonomy in the Gaza Strip first was raised.

[Peres] Yes. That issue has been relevant all the time. In my opinion it is also the main possibility that has a chance of succeeding, and I have not changed my view on this matter.

[Question] Was it you who raised the subject?

[Answer] It was not so well organized. It was a conversation. I heard about both the hopes and the difficulties that exist, but my estimation remains that the correct and best way to make progress is in this direction.

[Question] After the conversation, what do you think Mr Linowitz is taking with him to the meeting with Rashad ash-Shawwa?

[Answer] I think that [words indistinct] at this stage, he also wants to study the issue in Gaza itself, but he will most probably study it in his own way.

[Question] Did he discuss any new U.S. ideas with you?

[Answer] I have found that there are, perhaps, some thoughts on some of the disputed issues in an attempt to bridge [as heard] but my impression is that many issues still remain disputed.

[Question] How would you sum up the meeting and its atmosphere?

[Answer] A very pleasant atmosphere. The conversation was frank, informal, and the man is seeking a solution. [end recording]

[Announcer] About an hour ago, the meeting between Sol Linowitz and Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir ended at the Knesset building. Our correspondent has been told that the issue of the autonomy in Judaea and Samaria was not raised in their 30-minute conversation.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'EZER WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED

TA302035 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 30 Jan 80 TA

[Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman interviewed on Moqed program by correspondents Elimelekh Ram, 'Amiram Nir and Tuvya Sa'ar in the television studio--live]

[Excerpt] [Sa'ar] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, Moqed's guest this evening is Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. This week the government assigned Mr Weizman to handle the normalization and we will, of course, ask him about this as well as about the defense budget, the northern border and Weizman's status in Herut. Here with me are our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram and our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir. Mr Weizman, let us begin with the struggle over the budget.

We heard in Mabat this evening that the prime minister told you today that if there is no additional cut in the defense budget, there will be a government crisis. The question is, if the government, nevertheless, decides upon a further cut, will you accept the decision?

[Weizman] First of all, good evening. Second, there is a problem. Third, it is true that I spoke with the prime minister. Fourth, I will not say what I will do when A, B or C happens. But I would like to refer to this much more basically, although rapidly. Over the last 3 years, the defense establishment has made a serious cut in its budget, at least 8 percent. The IDF is due to absorb a great amount of equipment, which I can even list, and so what we agreed upon with the minister of finance, an agreement with the finance minister, is the absolute minimum the defense establishment can accept.

[Sa'ar] The question is simple, Mr Weizman, perhaps I will make it sharper. The question is one of an additional budget you are being asked to cut....

[Weizman] That is not accurate. It is not an additional budget.

[Sa'ar] An additional cut....

[Weizman] Excuse me...oh, that they want another cut from me?

[Sa'ar] An additional cut of 2 percent and the question is that the prime minister said today: There will be a government crisis if there is no additional cut. What did he mean? Perhaps you can explain....

[Weizman] I do not know what the prime minister meant....

[Sa'ar] Will you draw personal conclusions if the government decides, by a majority of votes, in favor of a further cut?

[Weizman] First, I would strongly recommend to my colleagues in the government that they do not vote against the defense budget which was agreed upon by the chief of staff, the director general of the Defense Ministry, the minister of finance and I.

[Sa'ar] And if they do not accept this advice?

[Weizman] I think they will do something unwise.

[Sa'ar] And will you draw conclusions?

[Weizman] I will do the wise thing I think should be done.

[Sa'ar] Which is?

[Weizman] To guard the defense budget.

[Nir] Mr Minister, before the peace treaty was signed when the regional situation was much less clear, much dimmer, much more dangerous, you agreed twice, perhaps even three times, to cut the defense budget by appreciable sums. As you yourself have pointed out and now, when the peace treaty has been signed and the welfare ministers want to reap its fruits, you are against this?

[Weizman] First, I have recently cut the defense budget. I have made a cut in dollars; that was not me, it was the establishment.

[Nir] And you asked for Israeli pounds in return for the cut in dollars.

[Weizman] Not in return for them. We balanced the 131 billion Israeli pounds cut between Israeli pounds and dollars. What was recently agreed upon in Israeli pounds with the finance minister is also about 10 billion Israeli pounds less than what the IDF asked for and so, when I was given the post, it is true that I made a cut. Because, together with the previous finance minister, I thought that the strength of the state of Israel does not total only tanks and planes, but also national strength and correct economics. I regret that perhaps we did not succeed completely. At any rate, over the last 3 years the defense establishment has made its contribution to this issue without dropping beneath a certain red line. I would like to take this opportunity of saying to the inhabitants of the state of Israel that although I will insist that the budget should not be cut, the IDF is strong, the defense establishment is secure and with the moves in the Middle East, the army is standing firm. I would just like to recall that there are some friends, some people, Cabinet members as well, who are very skeptical about the peace process. If some of my friends are skeptical about the peace process, I would strongly recommend that they guard the defense budget.

[Nir] Mr Minister, would it not be possible to make further cuts, to make the defense budget more efficient, make the defense establishment more efficient?

[Weizman] Look, it is possible, there is nothing which cannot be made more efficient And so, to say no, that would be an incorrect reply. I am sure that it is possible to make it more efficient, to lop off 20 million Israeli pounds here, 10 million Israeli pounds there and this is not small change. We are now speaking about issues, about main issues. About main issues such as IDF ammunition reserves, such as primary items for the IDF, we think that it is impossible to make any more cuts.

In addition to this, the IDF is becoming stronger this year through plans which not only this government had a hand in planning. I will place myself in jeopardy by telling the public what equipment the IDF is absorbing this year. This year we will absorb 60 fighter planes, including about 40 F-16's. We will absorb another 100 tanks; we will absorb another 100 cannons; another 630 armored personnel carriers and two missile boats. We must also worry about this.

[Ram] Mr Weizman, perhaps we can talk about the composition of the defense budget. As has been published, you will receive 10 billion....

[Weizman] The establishment will receive it, not me.

[Ram] That is, the defense establishment will receive 10 billion Israeli pounds which have been allocated for purchases in Israel. Now out of this 10 billion....

[Weizman] Nine....

[Ram] Nine billion, I know that 3 billion of this is intended for construction, 1 billion for fuel and quite an appreciable sum for salary increases. Is this produced in Israel?

[Weizman] First, nobody said that the entire 9 billion would go for production. Second, there are no salary increases. There are increases in permanent manpower and I would like to recall that, over all the years, we have had problems with young commanders, fighters, pilots, missile boat commanders, battalion commanders, unit commanders. I am happy to say that with all the ups and downs in the mood in the country, the motivation of the youth to voluntarily remain in the regular army has risen. This is not only because it is easier for them in the IDF.

Just a minute...and the 9 billion, and I want to recall that we have dropped more than $400 million, so that the general rise in the IDF budget is in fact a decrease; the whole entire 9 billion is not intended for local production, that is not precise. We said that if we take a further decrease in Israeli pounds we will have to dismiss workers in the military industry and the aircraft industry and in Fefa'el [reshut lefitu'ah emtza'ay lehima: authority for the development of fighting measures]. I think it would be a national error when a government has set a correct line, to transfer from services to industry, to transfer such a budget to the defense establishment so that there will have to be dismissals from the defense industries which contribute not only to the IDF, the defense establishment, but to production and to the technical labor force of the State of Israel.

[Ram] How much out of the 9 billion are intended for local production, sir?

[Weizman] Look, I...from this 9 billion? Billions of Israeli pounds were also intended for local production from the previous budget. We do not have sufficient ammunition, reserves. We do not have enough spare parts and so we will make an effort so that those industries in the State of Israel, not only the military industries, the sister industries as well, and the industries which are removed from the defense establishment, will not be harmed too much by a meager budget for the defense establishment.

[Sa'ar] So much for the matter of the budget. Perhaps we can now move on to the northern border. Is there really a danger of war with Syria?

[Weizman] I hope not, but the IDF has taken several measures after a discussion in the government, in the ministerial committee for security, after we had evaluated that there is a reasonable possibility that, in view of the developments in the Middle East, first the issue of Afghanistan and, of course, Russia's influence and the peace agreement between Egypt and us which is angering and infuriating the Arab world. [sentence as heard] By the way, I would like to take this opportunity of saying this: If the agreement is so bad for the Arabs, why are so many Jews concerned about it? But considering the influence of the process going on inside Syria itself, its isolation in the Arab world--it is a different isolation from that of Egypt today--we thought, and we estimated, in view of several reports that it was advisable to take some measures and let us pray that we do not need them. I personally instructed the IDF, with the agreement of the government of course, to try to make any move which would be a sort of safeguard and not to heat up the front.

[Sa'ar] But what is Syria trying to achieve through all its moves in southern Lebanon? Perhaps a war of attrition?

[Weizman] I do not know with certainty. If I knew, I would willingly tell you. I do now know with any certainty. We are dealing with evaluations and we are dealing with safeguards and insurance. The evaluation is that perhaps Syria wants to harm the peace process between us and the Egyptians through a military move. Imagine the president of Egypt [as heard] Al-Asad looking at the television today and seeing Dr Mustafa Khalil landing at Lod Airport.

[Nir] Mr Minister, is the new Syrian deployment in Lebanon and, to a certain extent, the increasing Soviet willingness to give Syria backing, to give Syria military backing through supplies, intended to precede the possibility of fighting? Do these not commit Israel to a new evaluation of the situation, perhaps even establishing certain red lines?

[Weizman] Look, I have never known what a red line is. There are more tense situations and there are those which are less tense and it is, without any doubt, a fact that we made such an evaluation of the situation about 3 weeks ago and we are doing this quite urgently now, and in view of the evaluation of this situation we recommended, and our recommendation was accepted, taking several measures in the north which are not anything particularly out of the ordinary, but security measures if they are needed.

[Nir] Is not our ability to take such measures or others to a certain extent restricted by the sensitive stage of our relations with Egypt?

[Weizman] No. No. As long as the Egyptians make a correct evaluation that it is not us who are making these moves with the intention of heating up the atmosphere, I think not. On this opportunity, if I can return to the previous issue, today the IDF is capable of taking those same correct measures it took, without going into detail, because it has been made more efficient: it is well organized, it has a strong regular army and the budgets it has had up to now are such as to permit entering into such a state of alert, if you have noticed, without calling up reserves.

[Ram] Mr Weizman, what is your assessment of the role of the Soviet Union in what is occurring today in southern Lebanon and Syria? Is the Soviet Union interested in heating up the area, if we look at Gromyko's remarks, when he said that the Soviet Union will defend Syria against an Israeli attack?

[Weizman] If Russia says, if that is what he said, that it will defend Syria against an Israeli attack, then he will apparently not have any work because the State of Israel is not preparing to attack Syria. But there is no doubt that the Soviet Union has interests in moving southward to the oil sources. I hope we are wrong; I do not think so, and so, when a foreign minister such as Gromyko goes to Damascus, Al-Asad goes to Saudi Arabia and there are several other signs, the State of Israel takes measures.

[Ram] Do these moves fit in with the Soviet Union's comprehensive policy in the region, such as the invasion of Afghanistan?

[Weizman] I think they do. Syria today is the most completely pro-Soviet country in the region, both because of the equipment it is receiving--Syria is equipped with T-72's today, Syria is receiving MIG-25's today and Syria has a serious armored force. All those who want to cut the defense budget ought to look at the tables we have submitted to them and so I have no doubt that Syria and Russia have a common interest, in view of the developments in the Middle East.

[Sa'ar] Perhaps we will move on from the Soviet Union to the United States. The U.S. aid: almost $1 billion, 800 million plus a loan of $200 million....

[Weizman] At 11 and 1/2 percent....

[Sa'ar] Eleven and a half, not bad terms; but the question is whether today, looking backward, you do not think that your trip, your latest one, to Washington, was superfluous?

[Weizman] No. I do not think so. Of course, I hoped to leave there with a fatter check book, although I would strongly recommend to everyone and to all of us that $200 million in these terms is not small change, especially for all those who today, with justification, are fighting for every Israeli pound in their budget.

[Sa'ar] Would we not have received this without your trip to Washington?

[Weizman] I was asked to go, so I do not know. If I had not been asked to go, I would not have gone. That trip I made, I know it was criticized, I think it's good or interesting to note that when the United States is facing a crisis with Afghanistan and Tehran and there are problems of elections and inflation in the United States, the President and the secretary of state and the secretary of defense nevertheless take the trouble to listen to a messenger from the State of Israel.

[Sa'ar] One of the interesting things about your latest visit to Washington was your declaration of support for Carter. Do you not think that that declaration was superfluous and perhaps harmful?

[Weizman] I will tell you, I see the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt as one of the crowning moments in the development of the State of Israel. I regard this achievement as one of the most important political achievements of the last 100 years of the consolidation of the renewed State of Israel in Eretz Yisra'el. I compared this with the Balfour Declaration and I also compare this with the UN Resolution in 1947. Anyone who contributed to obtaining this unusual achievement should be blessed.

[Sa'ar] Even if it harms us in this period of the election campaign?

[Weizman] Who does it harm? Us?

[Sa'ar] The State of Israel.

[Weizman] I want to say, first of all, I do not think it is harmful, to the contrary.

[Sa'ar] By the way, did you not hear Kennedy's remarks the day before yesterday at the Presidents' conference?

[Weizman] I did hear Kennedy's remarks. By the way, I have never heard a single word about the state of Israel from Kennedy until he decided to run and he is a respected senator. For example: the prime minister, the previous foreign minister, Mr Dayan, and I went around Washington quite a lot over the last 2 years in an attempt to achieve a blessed agreement between Israel and Egypt. I never heard from Mr Kennedy, he never phoned me at the least. Even when the peace agreement was signed in the White House last March we did not hear a good word. Now that he is running: Thank you very much, the President of the United States, Mr Carter, made an enormous contribution to the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

[Ram] Are you taking into account that Mr Kennedy may be the President of the United States?

[Weizman] I am taking into account that Mr Kennedy will not be the President of the United States.

[Nir] Well then, the U.S. President has contributed or rather will also decisively contribute to Egypt's armament. We hear of arms deals involving F-16 planes, M-60 tanks and perhaps additional modern items. Does this trouble you?

[Weizman] No. I generally suggest that the State of Israel not be troubled over everything, to limit the concern to basic subjects such as: What will the Soviet moves in the Middle East be? Who will face up to the Soviet Union in the Middle East? Now, whoever expected that Egypt would turn its back to the Soviet Union, would go hand in hand with the United States, sign peace with us and not receive arms? The question revolves around the nature of the arms, the quantity of the arms, the timing of the arms supply, the size of the (?existing) army and of course the relations prevailing between Egypt and us. By the way, 'Amiran, to the best of my knowledge, concrete and clear factors have not yet been concluded with Egypt, certainly not in regard to the F-16 planes. This does not mean this will not happen, but things have not yet been concluded.

[Nir] At any event, is the Israeli-Egyptian peace so reliable in your eyes that you are prepared for a certain gamble of such a strong Egypt?

[Weizman] I am not gambling about its power. I am not a gambler in general, not a gambler where security is concerned. I am considering, my colleagues and myself are considering more. Therefore, we are not considering Egypt's power alone. We are sure of Israel's power. One of the factors that convinced us, the Government of Israel, to agree to such a peace was the IDF's power and, in any case, since we are not 100 percent sure about the entire circle, we still want a strong army with all its components.

[Nir] Mr Minister, if it becomes clear to you indeed that Egypt is going to receive the items mentioned above--F-16's, M-60's--will you propose opposing this via a U.S. lobby?

[Weizman] When I see what will be offered [to Egypt], how it will be offered, when it will be offered and the quantity offered--then I will express my opinion.

[Ram] Mr Weizman, last week, when you returned from your last visit to Cairo you said--I am trying to quote from memory--that we should not examine Egypt's implementation of the peace treaty with a magnifying glass since the Egyptians may examine us with the same magnifying glass. What did you mean by that?

[Weizman] Precisely those two magnifying glasses I mentioned...

[Ram--interrupting] Are you criticizing us for not abiding by the peace treaty or not implementing it...

[Weizman--interrupting] No, no. What I meant--and I am repeating myself, perhaps without magnifying glasses and microscopes--it seems to me there is a tendency to be on guard all the time, looking for where or when the Egyptians are going to trick us. Well, we should always be on guard, but not in such a manner, with such joy of proving--look, you see, no residence was obtained for the embassy in Egypt, in Cairo, when this was not a result of an Egyptian Government's decision to torpedo this subject but rather a result of internal problems within Egypt, of getting an apartment in Cairo, of people that are not so happy with the fact that their house will be rented for Israel's Embassy, and other such reasons. If we sometimes go to the trouble of reading our press and seeing its criticism of Egypt--this is part of the magnifying glass I was referring to.

[Sa'ar] Mr Weizman, your adviser, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, says that the Egyptians go much beyond what is written in the peace treaty. Can you be specific?

[Weizman] They are following the peace treaty very correctly. They abide by the time-table like we do. I think the implementation of the treaty by both parties is following the right path. There could be a problem here or there. Let me give you an example: St. Catherine's. It was not written anywhere that St. Catherine's would turn into an Israeli tourist center as it is today. It was very doubtful whether Israelis would be able to go to St. Catherine's after the agreement was reached. Quite often I heard friends saying: Let us hurry to visit St. Catherine's before it is too late and look...

[Sa'ar--interrupting] Nothing was written about St. Catherine's as you say, but annex three, if I am not mistaken, talks of opening the embassy--that the embassy would open after the implementation of the interim stage and it did not open on 26 January, 4 days ago, as written. The prime minister and the Egyptian president agrred in Aswan that there would be civilian flights this week and there are no civilian flights.

[Weizman] One moment. First, there are no civilian flights since procedures have not yet been completed. I repeat--and I am suggesting this to you too Tuvya--after 30 years of wars and such an agreement as we have reached--we have just seen on the television newsreel the Egyptian prime minister landing in Tel Aviv--if the civilian Israeli planes fly to Egypt 2 weeks later [than scheduled], I think that after so many wars we could wait for these 2 additional weeks.

[Sa'ar] What about us? Will we also go beyond the peace treaty and advance certain stages. For example: the second state of withdrawal scheduled for April 1982. Will we advance the date?

[Weizman] I greatly doubt it. The subject has not been discussed at all. It is not included within the agreement, by the way. It was said in Camp David 2 to 3 years, while the Camp David agreement says not later than 3 years. The Egyptians are referring to Camp David and this is their mistake. One should pay attention to exactly what is written in the agreement: not later than 3 years.

[Nir] Will you consent to divide the next stage of Sinai withdrawal to sub-withdrawals as was the case with the first stage?

[Weizman] I greatly doubt this. I want to tell you what I told President as-Sadat last Tuesday and my colleagues there, such as General 'Ali, that they should understand our feelings. We, the IDF, have so far reached the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line in an orderly, good and efficient manner. The next stage, getting us to the international border, is much more difficult. First, we return to the international border and second, we will face the Rafah approaches, Yamit and all these difficult problems and compared to them the withdrawal to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line was relatively very easy.

[Nir] Mr Defense Minister--you and the normalization--is it, in your opinion, normal that the normalization, civil relations will be deposited in the hands of defense ministers and partially in the hands of a joint military committee?

[Weizman] No. Second, it is not in the hands of a joint military committee, not even partially. The normalization is in my hands and in the hands of General 'Ali and our assistants. I would say that the normalization between us and Egypt is not normal since never in the past were we faced with the case of needing to have normalization with any country. When the State of Israel was born we immediately had normalization with the Soviet Union and the United States, for example. One should remember that here we are moving toward diplomatic relations and good neighborly relations in every sense of the word with a country that was at war with us for 30 years. Therefore, sometimes, it is exactly through some other relations that one can find a better, more correct way. I would answer you with a question: Is it entirely normal that Dr Burg is dealing with autonomy?

[Ram] What do you think? Is this normal?

[Weizman] I think it will be good that there will be a foreign minister to deal with the two subjects.

[Ram] Do you not think it will be good that there will be a foreign minister to deal with normalization? What is happening brings to mind some memories about the oldest struggle, I should say, in all Israeli Cabinets between the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry.

[Weizman] I am happy to say that during the 2 and 1/2 years I have served as defense minister there have been no struggles between the Foreign and Defense Ministries. Let me remind you that the team that dealt with the peace issue was the former foreign minister and myself.

[Sa'ar] Is the removal of the normalization from the foreign minister's hands not the beginning of the struggle over the inheritance between...

[Weizman--interrupting] I must correct you. It was not taken out of the foreign minister's hands since there is no foreign minister. It was imposed on the defense minister.

[Sa'ar] Does imposing the task of handling the normalization on the defense minister and not the foreign minister, who will apparently be appointed next week, not indicate the beginning of the struggle over inheritance between 'Ezer Weizman and Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Weizman] God forbid. First, I do not intend to struggle. I do not know if there will be struggles either. I hope there will be no struggles at all.

[Ram] Maybe we should call it a contest.

[Weizman] Neither a struggle, nor a contest.

[Sa'ar] Why not to struggle? Is it clear that you are the heir?

[Weizman] God forbid, on the contrary. I very sincerely and very heartily want to continue serving in my position as defense minister until the day comes when I have to leave office. I strongly suggest that you leave the task of finding contests or struggles among the Likud members all the time to the opposition.

[Sa'ar] However, if the present prime minister decides to retire, is there a doubt, or do you have a doubt, that you are the candidate to inherit the position of prime minister?

[Weizman] First, I do not think he will decide to retire. Second, if and when he does, we will make another Moqed.

[Nir] Mr Minister, can you claim before your Herut movement's colleagues that you faithfully represent the revisionist-Jabotinsky ideology?

[Weizman] I will tell you--I am serving in a Cabinet led by Mr Begin. If anybody properly represents this, it is him. We have very few arguments--at least over the past 2 and 1/2 years we have had very few arguments--regarding this government's path, especially regarding its path toward peace.

[Ram] Minister Weizman, in the Cabinet meeting held on 25 November, if I am not mistaken, you told Minister Sharon: If you are afraid that you will not be included in any cabinet I may form, you surely have a cause for fear. If you form a cabinet, will you need Minister Sharon's services?

[Weizman] Look, I think it is unnecessary at this time to make assessments as to who will be the next prime minister and what he will do if he is in that position. We are all members of the same movement. We are members of the Likud. If and when the moment comes--and I do not even want to estimate when this might happen--we will all sit down together and form the best possible cabinet.

[Ram] What is your attitude toward Ari'el Sharon?

[Weizman--laughingly] Look, Ari'el Sharon and I have known each other for 30 years. He is a first-rate fighter, and a dynamic and wise person. We have arguments occasionally. We have worked together for many years now and I believe we will continue together for some more years to come.

[Nir] Mr Minister, with Minister Sharon and his known political views, with Minister Hurvitz instead of Mr Ehrlich, with the Minister-to-be Shamir instead of former Minister Dayan [Weizman here reminds him he has forgotten Moshe Arens, the head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee], the picture depicted is of a Cabinet that is more hawkish than what it might have been at the beginning. Will you feel comfortable with respect to the influence your opinion and line could have in such a cabinet?

[Weizman] Surely. Basically, in my military education, I am a fighter pilot of a single-engine plane and of a one-man pilot system. This will have no influence whatsoever on my line of thought if your assumption of a more hawkish government is correct--here too I can challenge you. If worse comes to worst I will have to be much more maneuvering and revert to my basic drills or training. On the whole, though, your remarks are very exaggerated in my opinion.

AFGHANISTAN

NATIONAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE PROTESTS U.S. 'INTERFERENCE'

LD301550 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] To (?His Excellency) U.S. President Jimmy Carter:

The national Olympics committee of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] has once again learned of U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other countries, especially its interference in the 1980 Olympic games in Moscow.

Such acts are far from the atmosphere of sports, and it is open and extensive interference in insuring the success of the Olympic games. This act is contrary to friendship and peaceful coexistence and against friendly cooperation among countries and nations of the world.

Direct and unfair interference in the internal affairs of independent and free Afghanistan by the leaders of the United States will not be a source of help in the U.S. presidential elections. The DRA national Olympics committee and all its sports organs urge the complete discontinuation of such interference on your part, especially with regard to the 1980 Moscow Olympic games.

The DRA national Olympics committee and all its sports organs urge Mr Carter to acknowledge the worldwide significance of the Olympic games and sports and not to darken the pure atmosphere of sport.

[Signed] The DRA National Olympics Committee.

KARMAL SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO BANI-SADR

LD301602 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] The information department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, has sent a congratulatory message to Tehran to His Excellency Abol hassan Bani-Sadr on his election as first president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

TRANSPORT MINISTER VISITS BALKH PROVINCE

LD301912 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Lt Col Sherjan Mazduryar, member of the PDPA Central Committee, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of transport and tourism, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Masar-e Sharif, the capital of Balkh Province at 1230 today for the purpose of regulating the transport affairs of the Hayratan Port [at the Afghan-Soviet border] and inspection of the construction and [words indistinct].

At the Mazar-e Sharif airport, Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi, the governor of Balkh, members of the provincial party committee, commanders of the armed forces and air force of Balkh, and heads of the provincial offices received the minister of transport and tourism. The minister of transport, while accompanied by the governor of Balkh, members of the provincial committee and heads of provincial offices, at 1430 went to the holy shrine of the Prince of the Saints 'Ali and prayed for his pure soul.

UK CORRESPONDENT SEES TIGHTER USSR HOLD ON COUNTRY

LD311149 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 31 Jan 80 pp 1, 30 LD

[Kenneth Clarke dispatch: "Russians Clamp Tighter Grip on Afghanistan"]

[Text] Bagram, Afghanistan--The Russians are consolidating their hold on Afghanistan with a continuing buildup of men and equipment that shows no sign of subtlety.

At the air base at Bagram, at the foot of the Hindu Kush mountains, MIG fighters line the runway as supply aircraft fly in and out. Streams of huge Red Army lorries with tank escorts clog the main road north from Kabul.

On the way here, one passes huge military camps, and supply depots while elderly taxis and gaudy Afghan lorries dodge between armoured cars, tanks, self-propelled guns, and other military vehicles. Soviet troops are everywhere and the approach road to the airfield is sealed off.

After some weeks of keeping a low profile, especially in Kabul, the Russians no longer seem to care about the extent of their visibility. It is clear their night-time patrols have been stepped up since last weekend.

One diplomat said the number of Russian soldiers outside his embassy each night had been raised from five to 15. A tank had suddenly appeared and a mobile communications system had been set up nearby.

Restrictions on foreign journalists have been tightened even further and to drive the 30-odd miles from Kabul to Bagram I and a colleague had to bribe a terrified taxi driver. He begged us not to tell anyone he had driven us outside the city centre, saying the Russians had ordered the Afghan police to deal with drivers driving unwelcome correspondents around sensitive areas.

Although properly accredited correspondents, we had to defy official instructions when we left our hotel without authority and travelled outside Kabul.

As we passed troop-laden Russian lorries, our driver demonstrated not only his fear--by hair-raising driving--but his hatred of the occupying army by maintaining an unbroken stream of abuse and gestures. Oddly, several Russians waved to us and others could be seen bartering cheerfully with Afghan villagers.

They sell watches, diesel oil and other items, for money spent on food to eke out their rations, and to buy cigarettes. During daylight hours at least, they appear totally unconcerned that they may fall victim to a sniper's bullet, although deeper into the mountain passes Russian vigilance is noticeably greater.

Moscow's control over the machinery of government in Kabul must by now be almost total although Mr Babrak Karmal goes through the motions of being prime minister, makes speeches and greets delegations from sympathetic countries.

The Kremlin, says observers, will be determined to see that the Karmal government does not get itself into such a hopeless position with purges and persecution as the regime of Hafizollah Amin reached before it was ousted by the Christmas coup. Moscow will ensure that Mr Karmal responds as a puppet should when its strings are jerked.

INDIA

GANDHI ADDRESS ON AFGHANISTAN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

BK301428 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that India would do its best to bring about speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Mrs Gandhi, however, warned that training of armed bands and providing bases (to them) across the border would only prolong the difficulties and the hostility. Mrs Gandhi was replying to the debate on president's address in the Lok Sabha today. She said India feels disturbed over the reaction of the superpowers, who are trying to convert Pakistan into a vast arsenal of weapons.

After the prime minister's hour-long speech, the house adopted by a voice vote the motion of thanks on the president's address.

The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent says that the prime minister opened her first major speech in the newly constituted house with a plea to let the events of 1975 and 77 belong to history. She cautioned the house about the gigantic challenges with which India is entering the new decade of the 80's.

Describing the Assam problem as delicate, the prime minister said she was confident that the problem will be solved. The government will arrange close monitoring of the drought situation and food-for-work program. She said various socioeconomic measures will be unfolded in the coming months.

The prime minister gave the house (stringed) statistics to show up the poor performance of the Janata and Lok Dal governments in the economic field. Mrs Gandhi said she had received complaints from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan that the state governments had launched vigorous programs of sterilization and vasectomy. These governments claimed that they had done so on the instructions of the center, while, she said no such instructions have been issued by the government. She said this is typical of how falsehoods spread against her. Amidst shouts of "shame shame" from her partymen, she said 34 commissions were set up against her, her family and her associates. Hysteria was whipped up through government-controlled media, she added.

Further on Address

BK301635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Excerpts] The prime minister told the parliament today that India will do its best to bring about speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Mrs Gandhi, however, warned the training of armed bands and provision of bases to them across the border would only prolong the difficulties of the people and hostility amongst them. She said India is prepared to initate a dialog with her neighbors to defuse the situation. Mrs Gandhi was replying to the debate on the president's address in both the houses.

After the prime minister's speech, the Lok Sabha adopted by a voice vote the motion of thanks on the president's address. In the Rajya Sabha, however, the motion was adopted with an amendment moved by Mr Bhupeshu Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India] and some other opposition leaders. The amendment expresses regret that the address did not take notice of the attempt at engineering defections in the states under non-Congress-I governments in a bid to dissolve the assemblies there. It says that the address also did not give any assurance that the government will not encourage such attempts. The amendment was carried by 80 votes to 75.

Mrs Gandhi described the situation in Assam as delicate and stressed the need to defuse it and bring normalcy in the troubled region. She said she is meeting representatives of the students tomorrow in a bid to find a solution to the problem. She appealed to all not to aggravate the situation by word or action.

Reverting to India's foreign policy, Mrs Gandhi said we want to normalize relations with China and consolidate our ties with the Soviet Union.

In reply to a point raised by an opposition member, Mrs Gandhi said her party will stand by its commitment on the Kampuchean issue as enunciated in its election manifesto.

Reaction to Opposition Amendment

BK310459 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Reacting to the opposition amendment made in the Rajya Sabha to the motion of thanks to the president's address, Congress-I sources have expressed regret that the opposition has adopted a path of confront tion. This is for the first time in parliament's history and other countries that voting had taken place on a motion of thanks. [sentence as heard]

Mr B.P. Maurya and Dinesh Goswami, both independents, had protested against the voting, arguing that it was contrary to the convention of the house. This had no effect on the opposition. Congress-I sources also said that when the Janata Party was in minority in the Rajya Sabha, the Congress-I never opposed the motion of thanks to the president. When such an amendment to the motion of thanks was sought to be moved by a member during the Janata rule, it was told that it would amount to discourtesy to the president and the amendment was not pressed.

The sources also say that the Congress-I always believe that the president should be kept outside the pale of political controversy. The sources added the main aim of the opposition seems to be to obstruct government business.

SPOKESMAN ON RECOGNITION OF NEW AFGHAN REGIME

BK310256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has clarified that the question of recognition of the new Government in Afghanistan does not arise. He said as regards countries with which India has diplomatic relations, the Indian Government starts dealing with an effective government that is in office.

The spokesman was replying to a question by newsmen whether India is required to recognize the Babrak Karmal government in Afghanistan.

CLARK CLIFFORD HOLDS TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

BK201632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Text] U.S. President Mr Carter's special emissary, Mr Clark Clifford, who arrived in New Delhi today, had a 90-minute meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

An official spokesman said that the talks were devoted to a factual review of developments in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan and their implications. Mr Clifford gave a detailed assessment of U.S. perceptions in these matters, while Mr Narasimha Rao gave him India's views. Senior officials from both sides were present.

There is to be another round of talks between them tomorrow. Mr Clifford will also meet the prime minister tomorrow.

Meets Indira Ghandhi

OW311107 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 31 Jan 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, 31 Jan (AFP)--U.S. presidential envoy Clark Clifford met Prime Minister Indira Gandhi here today and said afterwards he was hopeful that some "adjustments" might take place in the policies that separate U.S. and Indian reaction to the Soviet moves in Afghanistan.

Mr. Clifford told reporters outside Mrs. Gandhi's office that the talks, which lasted 50 minutes, had been "exceedingly frank and forthright" and had given both parties "an excellent understanding" of each other's policies.

This, he added, "would lead me to the hope there would be adjustments" in the divergent policies, by implication India's steadfast opposition to the U.S. plan to rearm Pakistan as a reply to the Soviet intervention.

But Mr. Clifford, a former U.S. defense secretary and adviser to several U.S. presidents, denied a suggestion that the U.S. might rethink its decision to send 400 million dollars in military and economic aid to Pakistan.

"I did not say that. What I'm saying is that understanding is always an important factor in nations' being able to maintain the friendliest of relations," he said, adding that talks had been "exceedingly friendly".

Mr. Clifford, the first high-level representative of the Carter administration to meet Mrs. Gandhi since her return to power last month after nearly three years in opposition, arrived here yesterday, about two weeks before a scheduled visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko.

Mr. Clifford said he had conveyed to Mrs. Gandhi the gist of a long talk he had held with President Carter just before leaving for New Delhi. This covered the reasoning behind the U.S. reply to the Soviet intervention and the importance attached by the Carter administration to hearing Mrs. Gandhi's views, he said.

Mrs. Gandhi had gone into "very considerable detail in that regard," and the U.S. had "an excellent understanding of her positions and her government's."

Mr. Clifford, who was meeting Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao for a second round of talks this afternoon, was to hold a news conference at 1200 GMT to discuss what he called "substantive matters."

But his meetings here, crucial for the U.S. effort to arrange a regional response to the armed Soviet move, were expected to point up continuing major differences.

India, suspicious of Pakistan after three border wars since the end of British rule in 1947, has repeatedly maintained that any arms buildup in the region would only heighten tension.

Mrs. Gandhi said yesterday that superpower rivalry on the Asian subcontinent had brought the world closer to nuclear war.

KREISKY SUGGESTS NEW 'MARSHALL PLAN' AT UNIDO CONFERENCE

BK311042 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The Austrian chancellor, Dr Burno Kreisky, has suggested the adoption of a new kind of Marshall plan to establish a balanced international economic order. He said such a plan had played a decisive role in the rapid recovery of the European economy. He was addressing the plenary session of the 127-nation UNIDO conference in New Delhi today. He said such a plan will lead to the first stage of a dialog between the developed and the developing countries. Dr Kreisky suggested that funds for such a Marshall plan can be raised through joint action by the industrialized and the oil exporting countries. He stressed the need for expansion of information and communication facilities to create a better international order.

Referring to some proposals put forward for a massive transfer of technology, the Austrian chancellor said that such a transfer should be in the interest of both the developed and the developing countries. He called for general technical assistance for the developing countries and for the preparation of feasibility studies. He was of the view that the energy crisis can be overcome by means of new forms of cooperation between the oil producing and the consuming countries.

Earlier, in his address Dr Kreisky paid rich tributes to Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatama Gandhi for their contribution against colonialism and imperialism.

Later talking to newsmen, Dr Kreisky denied that the Socialist International, an organization of socialist democrats of Europe and elsewhere, supported any attempt to destabilize Mrs Indira Gandhi's government in 1977.

Replying to a question, the Austrian chancellor said he had come to New Delhi mainly to identify new areas of cooperation between his country and India.

About Afghanistan, he said it is difficult to assess the magnitude of the crisis.

SWARAN SINGH RESIGNS FROM CONGRESS-U WORKING COMMITTEE

BK301356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Mr Swaran Singh today resigned from the Congress-U working committee and parliamentary board. Announcing his decision in New Delhi, he said he cannot associate himself with the move of Mr Devraj Urs to form a new party. In his letter to Mr Urs he said the new party will be a new non-Congress Party and congressmen in general cannot favor forming such a party.

Mr Swaran Singh said the recent Lok Sabha polls had established that the Congress-I enjoys the support of practically all congressmen throughout the country.

ELECTION OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CHALLENGED IN COURT

BK301358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The Delhi high court today issued a summons to Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee on a petition of Congress-I leader, Mr C.M. Stephen, challenging his election from the New Delhi parliamentary constituency. Mr Justice S.S. Chaddha fixed 21 February for Mr Vajpayee to appear in the court.

CORRECTION TO JOINT FRENCH-INDIAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED 30 JAN

The following correction to the item entitled "Giscard Announces New Initiative to Restart North-South Talks" and subtitled "Joint Communique Issued", published in the 30 January Middle East North Africa DAILY REPORT, page S 10, provides material omitted following the third paragraph:

1. Protocol on Indian-French industrial and commercial cooperation.
2. Memorandum of understanding on coal mining.
3. Memorandum of understanding on the aluminium complex in Orissa....

PAKISTAN

SPOKESMAN REFUTES PRAVDA CHARGES ON AID TO AFGHAN REBELS

BK310345 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman yesterday categorically refuted allegations in PRAVDA 19 January that guerrilla training bases existed in Pakistan and that firearms and ammunition are being carried in Pakistani ships for Afghan dissidents.

The spokesman categorically refuted this report as entirely baseless and false. The spokesman said Pakistan has strictly adhered to a policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He said Pakistan has never allowed use of its territory for Afghan dissidents to obtain firearms and ammunition.

The spokesman pointed out that foreign representatives and independent observers have visited Afghan refugee camps and to describe them as training camps for guerrillas is a total distortion of facts and an utter disregard for the vast humanitarian problems with which Pakistan is faced.

ZIAUL HAQ COMMENTS ON INDIA, AFGHANISTAN

BK310455 Hong Kong AFP in English 0440 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 31 Jan (AFP)--Pakistan's President General Ziaul Haq said he "cannot trust the contradictory statements which Indira Gandhi has been giving in relation with the Afghan crisis."

In an interview to the INDIAN EXPRESS published today, he asked: "What is the position of India?"

About the reported suggestion of a regional approach of the crisis recently made by Mrs Gandhi in a letter to him, General Zia said that "What has happened in Afghanistan is not a regional issue, it is a global issue."

"It is for the Muslim countries to get together to defend the sovereignty of a Muslim country, not only of Afghanistan but of the entire Islamic world," he added.

Asked about the possibility of a no-war pact with India, he replied to his Indian interviewer: "If there are problems, you know that no-war pacts, or non-aggression pacts are worth nothing, not even the paper on which they are written."

MORE DETAILS OF SHAHI'S REMARKS ON BRZEZINSKI VISIT

BK301605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Excerpts] Foreign Affairs Adviser Mr Agha Shahi has said that talks on the U.S. role in Pakistan's security will be held during the visit of the U.S. President's adviser on national security, Mr Brzezinski.

As for military aid, he said we would like to know how the United States sees the nature of the threat and what role it will play in this regard. We would also like to know how Pakistan's security can be strengthened in the regional context of the relationship which exists between the Soviet Union and India. In reply to a question, he said that although Pakistan did not regard this relationship as an obstacle, the question remained as to how far the Indo-Soviet treaty would be effective in maintaining peace and stability in the region. This is difficult for us to understand, he said.

PEACOCK COMMENTS BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM ISLAMABAD

BK310210 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The Australian foreign minister, Mr Andrew Peacock, has said Pakistan has every right to take steps to strengthen its ability to meet a direct threat to its security in the face of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and accept assistance for this purpose. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this evening after his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi. He said the Australian Government's (?hope) in this situation was that strengthening its security would be major response which, while meeting Pakistan's legitimate concern, did not unnecessarily arouse apprehensions or increase tension.

The Australian foreign minister said the international community had to register its strong disapproval of the Soviet action in Afghanistan as it is the first time that it has invaded a country outside the Warsaw Pact. Emphasizing the need for the international community to pressure the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan, he said the conveying to the Soviet Union of international concern forcefully would best serve the interests of peace and world order. An effective political response by the international community is necessary to prevent resort to the same circumstances in the future. But at the same time, he said he assumed that the Soviet Union might well choose to remain in Afghanistan.

Answering a question, Mr Peacock said they have no intention of breaking diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union as they believe that diplomatic efforts must continue. However, Australia has taken several measures against the Soviet Union such as cancelling shipment of grains, cooperation in the science and technology field and fishing rights and fishing agreements.

Concludes Visit

BK310820 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 31 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The Australian foreign minister, Mr Andrew Peacock, left Islamabad this morning for Thailand and Indonesia at the end of his 2-day visit to Pakistan.

ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION CHIEF CALLS ON PRESIDENT HAQ

BK301623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Mr Habib Chatti called on the president in Rawalpindi this afternoon. He thanked the president for making arrangements for the Islamic foreign ministers' conference within such a short time and for hosting the delegates.

The Ugandan delegation attending the conference also met the president.

Chatti Hails Decisions, Departs

BK310212 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The secretary general of the Islamic conference, Mr Habib Chatti, has said that the decisions of the foreign ministers conference will serve as a warning both to the East and West against aggression and interference in the internal affairs of a Muslim state. He was talking to representatives of radio and television at Islamabad airport this evening before his departure for Karachi on his way to Bangladesh. He said the happenings in Afghanistan had brought about an awakening in the Muslim world and they are now aware of the dangers threatening them. They all had therefore decided to take a common stand, and during the debates on Afghanistan not a single word had been uttered to justify the Soviet action. The resolution on Afghanistan had been adopted without any reservations and the debates were held in an atmosphere of perfect harmony among the member states. This despite the fact that some of them, being members of the nonalined movement, were closely cooperating with the Soviet Union or with the United States. But to defend their sovereignty and independence, they had decided to unite and take a common stand.

Mr Habib Chatti said the resolutions of the conference were beyond expectations and they would have a far-reaching political impact.

In reply to a question, Mr Chatti said that some new steps were required for the defense of the Islamic world. These could be discussed during the next meeting of the foreign ministers conference. He said the organization was trying to find all ways and means to promote economic and cultural cooperation and harmony and understanding among the Muslim states. He said the awakening among the Islamic world for the defense of their unity and independence is fast growing.

Replying to a question about according recognition to the alliance of six groups of Afghan mojahedin [freedom fighters], he said the issue of giving observer status of the alliance would be considered at the next foreign ministers conference to be held in Pakistan in April.